time of alleged incident with apprehension that some illegal miners might have been trapped. However, no illegal miner was found by the rescue team. Subsequently, dozer was engaged for dosing and filling off pits in the said forest land as per the advice of District Magistrate, Burdwan and all the pits were dozed and filled up.

Night viewing of Taj Mahal

622. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that night viewing of Taj Mahal in moonlight has been made expensive @ Rs. 720/- person above fifteen years of age and Rs. 700/- for children between 3—15 years for Indian citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the enhanced entry fee is not considered beyond the reach of a common man with average income; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to make night viewing of Taj Mahal within the reach of a common man?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of entry fee for night viewing of Taj Mahal is as follows:—

Indian	—	Rs. 510/-per head
Others	—	Rs. 750/- per head
Children (from 03	—	Rs. 500/-per head 15 years)

(c) and (d) The enhanced entry fee has been prescribed to limit the number of visitors as the Supreme Court has permitted only 400 visitors per night for 5 nights in a month — on the full moon night, two days prior to and two days after the full moon.

National Culture Fund

623. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Culture Fund set up in 1990 is in existence on papers only;

(b) if so, the work, the NCF has done since 1990 till date;

(c) whether Government propose to revamp the NCF;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the World Heritage Foundation, which is restoring some forts in India, has not been permitted to hire consultants for the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The National Culture Fund (NCF) was created as a Trust in November, 1996. It is managed and administered by a Council which decides the Policies and an Executive Committee that implements those Policies. The Council is chaired by the Union Minister (Information & Broadcasting and Culture). Since its inception, it has completed/expanded the following projects:

- Humayun Tomb Complex, New Delhi
- Shaniwar Wada, Pune
- Pardesi Synagogue Clock Tower, Fort Cochin, Kerala
- R.K. Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata
- Jnana Pravaha Trust, Varanasi
- Ramana Maharishi Centre, Bangalore

The Projects under discussion/on the anvil are:

- Revitalisation and beautification of Kanheri Caves and Bassein Fort near Mumbai
- Preservation of the Ladakh Monasteries
- Setting up of a Buddhist Centre at Chennai
- Konark Sun Temple (Orissa)
- Lodhi Garden Project
- Art Project with Himalayan Art Gallery
- Tughlaquabad Fort, Delhi
- Firozshah Kotla, Delhi
- Purana Quila, Delhi
- Neela Gumbad, Delhi

The ongoing Projects of NCF are:

- Jantar Mantar, New Delhi
- Taj Mahal (UP)
- Jaiselmer Fort (Rajasthan)

(c) and (d) Government propose to make National Culture Fund more responsive by developing a shelf of about 200-300 projects in various art forms (State-wise) for donors. It is also proposed to examine whether setting up of a project fund distinct from the corpus fund to ensure direct financial involvement of NCF in the various projects will help this process.

The constitution of NCF may also be closely scrutinized from time to time, to enhance public-private partnership.

(e) and (f) Once the funds are received by the National Culture Fund from an organization, the hiring of consultants for the project by the organization is invariably done as per the procedure followed by the Government. The process of finalization of the consultants is underway.

World Heritage site status to Golden Temple of Amritsar

624. SHR1MATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal by the UNESCO to grant World Heritage site status to the Golden Temple at Amritsar has raised doubts among the Sikh community on the issues related to future management of the shrine and change in sovereignty of Akal Takht;

(b) whether the statutory requirements of the UNO for granting heritage site status call for consultations between the local Government (India) and the Sikh community both in India and abroad; and

(c) whether the Sikh Human Rights Group (SHRG) has sought for a white paper on the issue from Government?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. Certain reservations were however repeatedly expressed by a certain group of Sikhs based in London.

(b) The operational guidelines for nomination as a World Heritage site clearly provide for the signature of the States Party in the nomination form and the full commitment of the nominating Government. The guidelines also prescribe participation of the local people in the nomination process.

(c) The Government has no information on this.